Monday, December 13, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Mopping up a game

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

"So, what's Esther getting for Christmas?" I asked Unlucky Louie.

"It's harder every year to buy for her," Louie sighed. "I've given her everything from a fur coat to a mop and bucket, and she's never forgotten."

"She probably won't let you forget the mop and bucket either," Cy the Cynic observed.

Louie was declarer at today's four hearts, and West led the K-A and a third diamond. Louie ruffed, led a spade to dummy and returned a trump, finessing with his queen.

DOWN TWO

West won and led the king of clubs, and Louie took his ace and drew trumps, groaning at West's discard. Louie then tried a spade to dummy's jack, hoping to get a pitch for his club loser. He went down two.

Louie forgot something: the auction. West was a big favorite to have 10 minor-suit cards. When he followed to a spade, he couldn't have as many as three trumps, so Louie couldn't pick up the king even if a finesse won. Louie must take the ace of trumps, hoping West has a singleton king.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 10 4 ♡ K ◇ A K J 9 4 ♣ K Q J 4 2. Your partner opens one spade, you respond two diamonds, he bids two hearts and you try three clubs. Partner then bids 3NT. What do you say?

ANSWER: Though your partner's bidding has not been encouraging, slam is possible. There is no reason why he couldn't hold A K 6 5 3, A Q 7 6, Q 7, 8 3. Bid 4NT. Since no trump suit is agreed, this is a "quantitative" try for slam. Partner should bid again with extra strength.

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A K J 8 7 5
♡ 6
◇ 8 7 2
♣ 8 7 5

WEST
♠ 10 4
♡ K
◇ A K J 9 4
♣ K Q J 4 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 3
♡ 9 5 3 2
◇ Q 6 3
♣ 10 9 6

SOUTH
♠ 6 2
♡ A Q J 10 8 7 4
◇ 10 5
♣ A 3

West	North	East	South
1 ◇	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♡
3 ♣	Pass	3 ◇	4 ♡
All Pass			

Opening lead — ◇ K

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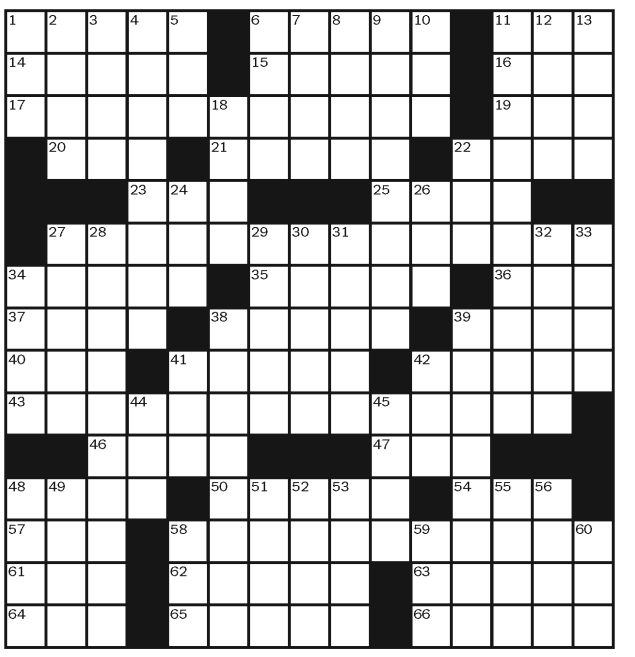
SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?
Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz — No. 1108



PUZZLE BY CARL LARSON

ACROSS
1 Honorific given to 17-, 27-, 43- and 58-Across
6 Agreements between nations
11 CBS series with spinoffs set in Miami and New York
14 Rocker Vedder or Van Halen
15 Menotti's "___ and the Night Visitors"
16 "... yadda, yadda, yadda"
17 *Disco*
19 Bread for a Reuben sandwich
20 Montero Lamar Hill a.k.a. Lil ___ X
21 Socially distant
22 "u up?," e.g.
23 "___ the season to be jolly"
25 "Mona ___," painting with an enigmatic smile
27 *Soul*
34 Keep away from
35 What a bride gets fitted for
36 Dude
37 "Aye-aye" guy
38 Most common surname in the U.S. (ahead of Johnson and Williams)
39 Trickster of Norse myth
40 Get a move on, quaintly
41 Japanese dog breed
42 Like emails at the top of an inbox
43 *Jazz*
46 Stops procrastinating
47 Purchase at a pump
48 Sank, as a putt
50 Cowboy's cow catcher
54 "For ___ a jolly good fellow ..."
57 ___ Man Winter
58 *Country*
61 Coffee, slangily
62 "Carmen" or "Elektra"
63 Nintendo villain with an upside-down "M" on his cap
64 Opposite of 'neath
65 Like maples but not pines
66 Won the World Series in four games, say

DOWN
1 Proof-ending letters
2 Thick Japanese noodle
3 Woman's name hidden in "United Nations"
4 He postulated E = mc²
5 Grant-issuing cultural org.
6 Bandmate of John, George and Ringo
7 Hunter's supply, for short
8 Hunter's garb, for short
9 Justice League member who's super-speedy
10 35mm camera type
11 Good name for a postseason football game sponsored by General Mills?
12 Mythological river around the underworld
13 Rapper/actor on "Law & Order: SVU"
18 Pageant wear
22 "For shame!"
24 "___ be my pleasure"
26 Shoo-___ (sure winners)
27 Be of use
28 Access to a treehouse, maybe
29 "You gotta ___ ..."
30 On the ___ (broken)
31 Mark down for a sale, say
32 Cheesed off
33 Dark film genre
34 Feel sore
38 Black diamond trail, e.g.
39 Ordinance for dog-walkers
41 Toward the stern
42 Org. supporting the Second Amendment
44 Blackjack card with two values
45 Acronym for a multiaward accomplishment
48 Magical power, informally
49 ___ vera
51 Vicinity
52 Feudal worker
53 Dog command often issued with an outstretched palm
55 Brontë's Jane
56 Scissor sound
58 "u r so funny!"
59 Reactions to cute puppies
60 "Just kidding!"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

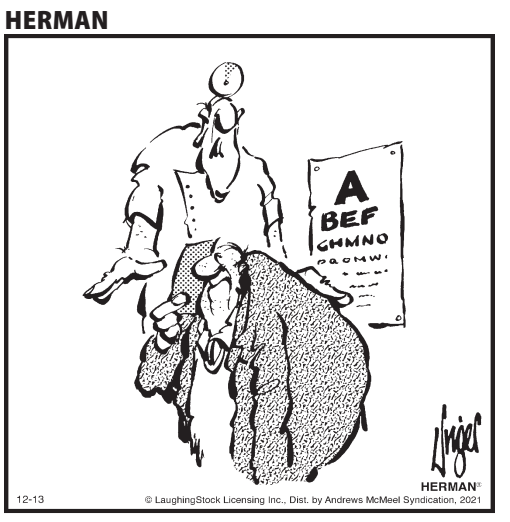
	S	L	A	M		A	C	I	D		S	U	L	A
S	T	O	R	E	B	R	A	N	D		A	N	E	W
W	E	R	E	R	A	B	B	I	T		L	I	F	E
I	V	E		C	R	U	S	T		T	E	X	T	S
G	E	N	D	E	R	S			O	H	M			
			O	D	E		P	O	N	E		A	P	P
P	R	O	P	E	L	L	E	R	B	E	A	N	I	E
T	A	K	E	S	F	O	R	G	R	A	N	T	E	D
S	T	A	R	B	U	C	K	S	O	R	D	E	R	S
D	E	Y		E	L	K	S		A	L	E			
			I	N	S			O	D	Y	S	S	E	Y
G	L	I	T	Z		F	L	O	W	S		E	M	U
L	A	G	S		P	L	A	Z	A	H	O	T	E	L
A	T	O	M		I	O	W	E	Y	O	U	O	N	E
M	E	R	E		T	E	N	D		W	I	N	D	

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords ($39.95 a year).

BIZARRO

DENNIS THE MENACE

HERMAN



"OK! Now stay exactly like that and I'll move the chart over to the other wall."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RBUYL
SHCUR
DMIEDL
VLARGE

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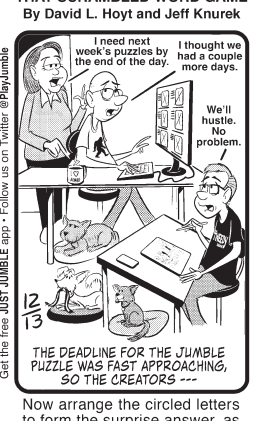
Print your answer here:

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



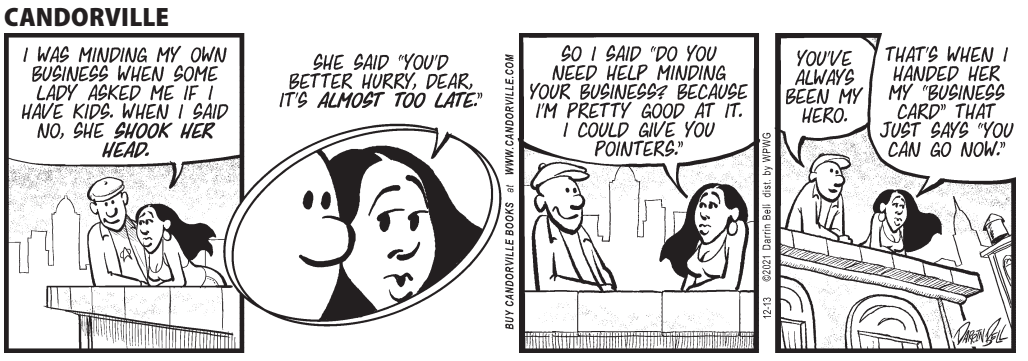
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: WHINE APART SCRIPT NOBODY
Answer: When the colt showed off his art skills by sketching his sister, it was — HORSE-DRAWN

CANDORVILLE



WUMO

ZITS

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

1		4		2	3	6		
	2			4	6		3	1
8	3	6		5		7		
3		1				5	7	
			3	6	7			
	7	8				3		9
		3		7		2	8	5
7	6		1	8			9	
		9	5	3		1		7

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

SOLUTION:

6	9	1	8	7	3	5	4	2
7	4	5	9	2	1	3	6	8
2	3	8	6	5	4	9	7	1
5	2	4	7	6	8	1	3	9
8	6	7	3	1	9	4	2	5
3	1	9	5	4	2	6	8	7
1	7	3	2	9	6	8	5	4
9	5	6	4	8	7	2	1	3
4	8	2	1	3	5	7	9	6

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 To __ her own
5 Work on, as a bone
9 Swedish pop group
13 Pond plant with floating "pads"
14 "West Side Story" heroine
16 Golf scorecard numbers
17 TV Mister with a "neighborhood"
19 MADD ads, e.g.
20 Achy from exercise
21 Italian half-dozen
22 The "L" in "SNL"
23 Regular cybersecurity measure
27 Thurman on screen
29 Crumpets drink
30 Enjoy a meal
31 Fulfill fully
33 Things best not all put in one basket?
36 Ocean levels
40 Agatha Christie play set in Egypt
43 Identify as yours, as baggage
44 College sports org.
45 Man or Wight
46 Spanish aunt
48 First-aid set
50 Cell pic taker
51 Self-inflicted tennis mistake
57 Get close to
58 Charlemagne's domain, for short
59 Disney exec Robert
61 Painter of limp watches
62 Like a nonfunctioning vending machine, or what the circled letters are, in two ways
66 Memorable lioness
67 Performance sometimes seen through glasses
68 German article
69 Rod partner
70 "Jurassic Park" menace, briefly
71 "Halt!"

DOWN
1 Santa helper
2 Broadcasts
3 Antony's last spouse
4 Monster slain by Hercules
5 Modern food concern, briefly
6 Old horse
7 "Am not!" reply
8 Electrical job
9 Drink replacing "mar" with an apt fruit
10 Foundation
11 Courageous
12 Balance sheet item
15 "Step __!": "Outta my way!"
18 Take a break
24 Prophet
25 Old West vehicle
26 Per-hour amount
27 "Semper Fi" org.
28 Hammering tool
32 Opinion piece
34 Health supplements co.
35 Vampire's undoing
37 Cast doubt on
38 Scat legend Fitzgerald
39 Apparently are
41 Mideast ruler
42 Win by a __: barely beat
47 Sneezing sound
49 Emerson, Lake & Palmer, e.g.
51 Beneath
52 Author Zora __ Hurston
53 True-__ test
54 Explode in rage
55 Try to stop
56 Shrek and family
60 City sometimes mistaken for the capital of Nevada
63 Mined resource
64 Obsolescent document transmitter
65 One ab crunch, say

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

A	S	S	O	R	T	M	E	N	T	S		P	S	I
D	I	P	L	O	M	A	M	I	L	L		I	O	N
D	N	A	E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E		L	U	X
L	E	D	G	E		E	R	E		P	R	E	S	S
E	W	E			B	O	G	A	R	T	E	D		
			L	E	A	V	E	M	E		D	I	N	G
A	P	P	A	L	L	E	D		C	A	N	T	O	R
C	R	O	W	B	A	R		S	I	D	E	O	N	E
H	A	S	S	A	N		H	I	T	A	S	N	A	G
E	T	T	U		C	O	I	N	E	R	S			
		T	I	M	E	L	A	G	S			M	O	B
V	I	R	T	U		D	A	S		F	R	O	Z	E
E	D	U		T	H	E	S	O	P	R	A	N	O	S
G	E	T		T	A	L	E	N	T	A	G	E	N	T
A	S	H		S	W	I	N	G	S	T	A	T	E	S

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By John Harrington
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